

ADAPTER SET

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an adapter set and, more particularly to an adapter set, which comprises at least one electric plug slot for charging the battery of a respective model of cellular telephone and receiving the signal from the cellular telephone.

For the advantage of being highly mobil and being capable of storing personal data and playing music, personal information processing means, such as cellular telephones, electronic translators and personal data assistants, are fast developed in 3C (computer, communications, consumer electronics) technology. However, different personal information processing means, for example, different models of cellular telephones, must be used with different peripheral apparatus such as battery chargers. When buying a new model of cellular telephone, a new matching peripheral apparatus may be required.

FIG. 1 and 2 show a regular battery charger for cellular telephone. This battery charger comprises a base 11, and an AC adapter 21 connected to the base 11. The base 11 comprises a top receptacle 15 and a cellular telephone connector 13 disposed in the top receptacle 15 and is adapted to receive a particular model of cellular telephone 25. The AC adapter 21 converts city power supply to DC power supply for charging the battery of a particular

model of cellular telephone 25. After the connection of a particular model of cellular telephone 25 to the cellular telephone connector 13, the battery of the cellular telephone 25 is charged.

Further, when connecting a cellular telephone to a computer system, for example, a notebook computer, IrDA shall be used as a transmission media between the cellular telephone and the computer system. However, due to the disadvantage of point-to-point transmission, short effective working range and easy block by obstructions of outside environment, therefore external body, IrDA is not well developed with the progress of 3C industry.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been accomplished to remedy this disadvantage. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the adapter set comprises a base having an electric plug slots adapted to receive any one of a set of cellular telephone connectors for charging the battery of any one of a variety of models of cellular telephones. According to another embodiment of the present invention, the adapter set comprises a base having a plurality of electric plug slots adapted to hold different cellular telephone connectors for charging the batterys of different models of cellular telephones at one time. In either embodiment of the present invention, the base comprises a male electric connector for inserting USB (universal serial bus) designed for signal

transmission from the loaded cellular telephone to an external electronic apparatus. In either embodiment of the present invention, the base further comprises a function module holder adapted to hold an external function module, which can be a data storage means, a MP3 player, a radio, a CD player, or a digital camera.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONN OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a cellular telephone battery charger constructed according to the prior art.

FIG. 2 illustrates a cellular telephone installed in the prior art battery charger.

FIG. 3 is an exploded view of an adapter set according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view showing an application of the adapter set shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is an elevational view of FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is an exploded view of an alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention.

FIG. 7A is an exploded view of another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention.

FIG. 7B illustrates the connection between the adapter set shown in FIG. 7A and a cellular phone.

FIG. 8 is an exploded view of still another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a sectional view of still another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention.

FIG. 10 is a schematic drawing showing an application of still another alternate form of the adapter set according to the 5 present invention.

FIG. 11 is an elevational view of still another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. from 3 through 5, an adapter set in 10 accordance with the present invention comprises a base 31, and an AC adapter 51 connected to the base 31 is adapted to convert AC power supply into DC power supply. According to preferred embodiment the present invention, the base 31 having a top receptacle 35 adapted to receive a cellular telephone connector 33 and a cellular telephone 55 on the cellular telephone connector 33. The top receptacle 35 has an electric plug slot 37 for outputting the power to the cellular telephone connector 33 connected thereto. The cellular telephone connector 33 comprises a first connection edge 331 plugged into the electric plug slot 37, and a second 15 connection edge 335 connected to a connector of the cellular telephone 55. After connecting of the cellular telephone 55 to the second connection edge 335 of the cellular telephone connector 33 being inserted into the electric plug slot 37 of the top receptacle 35

of the base **31**, the AC adapter **51** is insert to city power supply, and thus a voltage is supplied to the cellular telephone **55** to charge the battery of the cellular telephone **55**. Further, the second connection edge **335** of the electric connector **33** fits a particular model of **5** cellular telephone, but for charging a different model of cellular telephone, a different electric connector may be used.

The base **31** further comprises a downwardly protruded module holder **41** and a male electric connector **43** installed in the module holder **41** and electrically connected to the electric plug **10** slot **37** for receiving a function module **45** to extend the function of the cellular telephone **55** installed in the top receptacle **35**. The function module **45** can be a data storage means, MP3 player, radio, CD player, electronic translator, or digital camera etc. having an interface slot **455** to fit the module holder **41**, and a female electric **15** connector **453** disposed in the interface slot **455** to match the male electric connector **43** in the module holder **41**. The function module **45** has a flat, rectangular profile fitting the module holder **41** of the base **31**. After connecting of the cellular telephone **55** to the cellular telephone connector **33** in the plug slot **37** of the top **20** receptacle **35** of the base **31** and the male electric connector **43** of the module holder **41** of the base **31** to the female electric connector **453** of the function module **45**, the function module **45** supports the base **31** and the loaded cellular telephone **55** stably on

a flat surface, and the cellular telephone 55 can be operated to work with the function module 45 to store personal data, names of individuals or companies and telephone numbers, to play MP3 music, to receive radio broadcasting programs, to take photos, or to 5 translate text.

Referring to FIG. 6, different cellular telephone connectors 33, 63 and 73 can be alternatively connected to the electric plug slot 37 in the top receptacle 35 of the base 31 to receive a respective model of cellular telephone. The cellular telephone 10 connectors 33, 63 and 73 each have a first connection side 331, 631 or 731 adapted for connecting to the electric plug slot 37 in the top receptacle 35 of the base 31, and a second connection side 335, 635 or 735 adapted to be connected to a respective model of cellular telephone.

FIGS. 7A and 7B show an alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention. According to this alternate form, the adapter set comprises a hollow base 61, a power cable 515 adapted for connecting to the electric socket for cigarette lighter of a motor vehicle to obtain DC power supply for the base 61, and a 20 cellular telephone connector 63 connected to the base 61 for receiving a particular model of cellular telephone 553. Further, the base 61 has a downwardly protruded module holder 41 adapted to receive a function module. Alternatively, the aforesaid AC adapter

51 may be used instead of the power cable 515. According to this alternate form, the adapter set is compact and, convenient for carriage.

FIG. 8 shows another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention. According to this alternate form, the adapter set comprises a base 71 having three top receptacles 75, 753 and 755 and three electric plug slots 37, 67 and 77 are respectively disposed in the top receptacles 75, 753 and 755. Besides, an AC adapter 51 connected to the base 71 is adapted to convert AC power supply into DC power supply for the base 71, and three cellular telephone connectors 33, 63 and 73 are respectively vertically connected to the electric plug slots 37, 67 and 77 utilized for receiving a respective model of cellular telephone.

FIG. 9 shows still another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention. According to this alternate form, the adapter set comprises a base 71, 71 having three top receptacles 75, 753 and 755 and three cellular telephone connectors 33, 63 and 73 are fixedly vertically disposed in the top receptacles 75, 753 and 755 for receiving a respective model of cellular telephone, an AC adapter 51 connected to the base 71 and adapted to convert AC power supply into DC power supply for the base 71, a module holder 81 formed integrally with the base 71 at a bottom side, and a

male electric connector 83 provided in the module holder 81 for receiving the female electric connector 853 of a function module 85.

FIG. 10 shows still another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention. According to this alternate form, a data transmission cable 90 can be used to connect the male electric connector (not shown) of the module holder 81 of the base 71 to a computer or computer peripheral apparatus. The data transmission cable 90 has one end terminating in a female electric connector for connecting to the male electric connector of the module holder 81 of the base 71, and an opposite end terminating in an electric connector for connecting to a hub, computer, or computer peripheral apparatus. The connectors of the data transmission cable 90 according to this embodiment are USB (universal serial bus) connectors.

FIG. 11 shows still another alternate form of the adapter set according to the present invention. According to this alternate form, the adapter set comprises a base 91. The base 91 comprises three electric plug slots 37, 67 and 77 arranged at the top side thereof, three cellular telephone connectors 33, 63 and 73 respectively vertically installed in the electric plug slots 37, 67 and 77 for receiving a respective model of cellular telephone, a data transmission connector 833 disposed at one lateral side thereof is

adapted to accept a data transmission cable from a computer or computer peripheral apparatus, two power input jacks 89 and a signal output connector 87 are arranged at the front side thereof. The power input jacks 89 are adapted to receive an AC adapter 51 and a power cable 515 respectively. The power cable 515, is adapted to receive battery power supply from the electric socket for cigarette lighter of a motor vehicle. The signal output connector 87 is adapted to output signal from the cellular telephone (not shown) installed in one of the cellular telephone connectors 33, 63 and 73 to, for example, a speaker system 875.

It is to be understood that the drawings are designed for purposes of illustration only, and are not intended for use as a definition of the limits and scope of the invention disclosed. For example, the base 31, 61, 71, 81 or 91 can be made to fit a particular model or particular models of personal data processors such as electronic translators or PDAs (personal data assistants).